

*Washington, DC* - U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-Dover) today issued the following statement calling out Republican Senator Jim Bunning for delaying relief to millions of American families and blocking passage of emergency legislation that extends unemployment insurance, COBRA, Medicare rates, provides funding for construction jobs, and other critical programs. The bill passed the House with unanimous support last week, but is now held up in the Senate by this single Republican Senator.

"This is exactly why people don't trust government. Despite the fact that the House unanimously passed this legislation, helping people in their time of need, one Senator is causing gridlock. His selfish actions are causing construction jobs to stop, people to lose access to their unemployment payments, COBRA benefits, and even their favorite TV shows when they come home from a hard day at work. I will fight to make sure this Senator stops his obstructionist tactics and ends this gridlock."

The consequences of this blatant, partisan obstructionism at a time of economic need could not be clearer, and will be felt starting today:

- 400,000 individuals who cannot find work will lose their unemployment insurance. Within a month, the number of Americans who lose benefits will increase to 1.5 million and within two months nearly 3 million Americans will have lost their benefits.
- An estimated 500,000 workers who lose their jobs will be ineligible for subsidies to cover the cost of health care over this month. Over the rest of 2010, an estimated 5 million workers will be ineligible for the Recovery Act COBRA subsidies that cover 65% of the cost of coverage. Without this assistance, many of these families will be forced to join the ranks of the uninsured.
- Payment rates for doctors in Medicare will be cut by 21.2 percent. These cuts will substantially impair doctors' ability to maintain care for Medicare patients.
- Thousands of construction workers across the country aren't at work today and major road projects are halted.
- 2,000 employees at the U.S. Department of Transportation are furloughed at a time when vehicle safety problems are threatening lives on our nation's roads.
- Federal reimbursements to states for highway and transit projects—on the order of hundreds of millions of dollars each day—will stop, which could force a halt in construction work and layoffs of construction workers in the middle of worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.
- Nearly 3,000 businesses this month will be denied access to the loans they need to run their businesses, to pay their employees and vendors, and to create new jobs.

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